



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **PRESS RELEASE RUTLAND, VERMONT June 6, 2007**

#### **BRATTLEBORO MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated that on June 4, 2007, Torren Boyd, 26, of Brattleboro was sentenced to five years imprisonment, to be followed by four years of supervised release, for possession of crack cocaine with the intent to distribute. Boyd was sentenced by the Honorable J. Garvan Murtha in United States District Court in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Boyd was prosecuted as part of an extensive investigation involving drug and gun trafficking between Brattleboro and Springfield, Massachusetts. According to Court documents, Boyd was involved with several others who were also prosecuted for their involvement in this guns-for-drugs trafficking conspiracy. In March, 2003, the group was involved in trading six .45 caliber Masterpiece Arms handguns to Mariel Marrero of Springfield, Massachusetts. Marrero used one of the firearms to shoot and seriously wound an unarmed man in Springfield, MA. Boyd initially cooperated with authorities, but in June, 2005, was caught in possession of almost ten grams of crack cocaine and was charged in federal court. On July 21, 2006, Boyd was again caught selling drugs to a confidential informant who was working with the Vermont Drug Task Force.

At the sentencing hearing the United States recommended that Boyd be sentenced in accordance with the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which provided for a sentence of between 210 to 262 months in prison. The United States argued that such a sentence was warranted because of the nature of the offense and because Boyd continued to use and sell drugs after his arrest and while out on bail. Judge Murtha decided not to follow the Sentencing Guidelines and imposed a sentence of 60 months.

Others sentenced as part of this investigation include: Mariel Marrero, who was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment on December 11, 2006; Marlon Taliaferro, who was sentenced to 70 months of imprisonment on April 26, 2006; Thomas Zargo, who was sentenced on May 15, 2006, to 27 months of imprisonment; Nathaniel Trowell, who was sentenced to 15 months on November 9, 2006; Jay Lindsey, who was sentenced to 9 months of imprisonment on March 13, 2006; and Marcos Alvarado was sentenced on February 13, 2006, to one year and one day of imprisonment.

United States Attorney Thomas D. Anderson thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Vermont State Police, the Vermont Drug Task Force, and the Brattleboro Police, who investigated the case. Boyd was represented by John Mabie, Esq., of Brattleboro. Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth C. Woodcock prosecuted the case for the United States.